AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A manually adjustable forceps tool for controlling an implantable electrode assembly of a stimulating medical device comprising:

a first flexible arm comprising contiguous first and second elongate regions, wherein the distal end of said first region is connected to the proximal end of said second region, a length of said second region comprising a concave cross-sectional shaped region, wherein the proximal end of said concave-shaped cross-sectional region is configured to receive said electrode assembly along a longitudinal axis through the geometric center of said concave-shaped cross-sectional region and wherein said concave cross-sectional shape enables said second region to receive and support said electrode assembly such that relative longitudinal movement of said electrode assembly with respect to the forceps tool is permitted while relative lateral movement of said electrode assembly with respect to the forceps tool is substantially restricted; and

a second flexible arm comprising first and second contiguous elongate regions, wherein the distal end of said first region is connected to the proximal end of said second region, said second region of said second arm having a tip region, ~~wherein a~~ wherein said longitudinal axis ~~through said concave-shaped cross-sectional region~~ is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of said tip region, and

wherein said proximal end of said first region of said first arm is connected to the proximal end of said first region of said second arm, and wherein application of a force to at least one of said first regions causes said tip region to travel toward said concave cross-sectional shaped region, and when said tip is in proximity to said concave cross-sectional shaped region said electrode assembly is retained in a space defined by said concave cross-sectional shaped region and said tip region, thereby providing operator control of the relative longitudinal movement of said electrode assembly.

21. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said concave cross-sectional shaped region comprises:

a region having a substantially C-shaped cross-section.

22. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 21, wherein said C-shaped region comprises:

a region having a substantially half-tube shaped cross-section.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said second regions of said first and second arms are each positioned at an angle of approximately 0° to 25° degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

26. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 25, wherein said second regions are each positioned at an angle of approximately 18 degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

27. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein a line through the center of the space defined by said concave cross-sectional shaped second region is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said second region of said first arm.

28. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said concave cross-sectional shape further comprises:

an aperture positioned at the trough of said concave cross-sectional shape.

29. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said concave cross-sectional shaped region when said tip region is in proximity to said concave cross-sectional shaped region.

30. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 29, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is greater than the width of the space defined by said concave cross-sectional shaped region.

31. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 29, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is less than the width of the space defined by said concave cross-sectional shaped region.

32. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said tip region extends the length of said second region of said second arm, and comprises:

an approximately constant cross-section.

33. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 32, wherein said tip region comprises:

a substantially rectangular cross-section.

34. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 32, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said concave cross-sectional shaped region when said tip region is in proximity to said concave cross-sectional shaped region.

35. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said distal ends of said second regions move towards each other when said arms are compressed, and wherein said distal ends of said second regions move away from each other when the compression is released.

36. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein one of said arms includes a post positioned on said arm, said post being proximate to the other of said arms when said tip region is in proximity to said concave region, and wherein said post is configured to prevent said tip region from contacting said concave region.

37. (Previously Presented) The forceps of claim 20, wherein said electrode array comprises an electrode array selected from the group of: a cochlea stimulation electrode array, a spinal stimulation electrode array or an auditory midbrain stimulation array.

38. (Withdrawn) A manually adjustable forceps tool for controlling an implantable electrode assembly of a stimulating medical device comprising:

a first flexible arm comprising contiguous first and second elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region having a substantially forked shaped region near said distal end of said second region, said forked region configured to receive and support said electrode assembly; and

a second flexible arm comprising first and second contiguous elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region of said second arm having a tip region; and

wherein said proximal end of said first region of said first arm is pivotally fixed to the proximal end of said first region of said second arm, and wherein application of a force to said first or second arms causes said tip region to be in proximity to said forked region to retain said electrode assembly in a space defined by said forked region and said tip region.

39. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 38, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said forked region and said tip region, said forked region limits lateral movement of said electrode assembly.

40. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 38, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said forked region and said tip region, said forked region permits longitudinal movement of said electrode assembly relative to said forked region.

41. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said forked region comprises a pair of elongate elements each having a proximal and distal end, and wherein said proximate ends of said elongate elements are joined to each other.

42. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 41, wherein said elongate elements each have a radius of curvature at said distal ends of said elongate elements.

43. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 42, wherein when said forked region is in proximity to said tip region, said radius of curvature is curved away from said tip region.

44. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said second regions of said first and second arms are each positioned at an angle of approximately 0° to 25° degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

45. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 44, wherein said second regions are each positioned at an angle of approximately 18 degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

46. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said forked region is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said second region of said first arm.

47. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said forked region when said tip region is in proximity to said forked region.

48. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 47, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is greater than the width of said forked region.

49. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 47, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is less than the width of the said forked region.

50. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said tip region extends the length of said second region of said second arm, and comprises:

an approximately constant cross-section.

51. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 50, wherein said tip region comprises:

a substantially rectangular cross-section.

52. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 50, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said forked region when said tip region is in proximity to said forked region.

53. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said distal ends of said second regions move towards each other when said arms are compressed, and wherein said distal ends of said second regions move away from each other when the compression is released.

54. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 38, wherein one of said arms includes a post positioned on said arm, said post being proximate to the other of said arms when said tip region is in proximity to said concave region, wherein said post is configured to prevent said tip region from contacting said concave region.

55. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 38, wherein said electrode array comprises an electrode array selected from the group of: a cochlea stimulation electrode array, a spinal stimulation electrode array or an auditory midbrain stimulation array.

56. (Withdrawn) A manually adjustable forceps tool for controlling an implantable electrode assembly of a stimulating medical device comprising:

a first flexible arm comprising contiguous first and second elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region having a looped shaped region near said distal end of said second region, said looped region configured to receive and support said electrode assembly; and

a second flexible arm comprising first and second contiguous elongate regions each having proximal and distal ends, said second region of said second arm having a tip region; and

wherein said proximal end of said first region of said first arm is pivotally fixed to the proximal end of said first region of said second arm, and wherein application of a force to said first or second arms causes said tip region to be in proximity to said looped region to retain said electrode assembly in a space defined by said looped region.

57. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 56, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said looped region, said looped region limits lateral movement of said electrode assembly.

58. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 56, wherein when said electrode assembly is retained in said space defined by said looped region, said looped region permits longitudinal movement of said electrode assembly relative to said looped region.

59. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said looped region comprises an elongate looped shaped element having a proximal and distal end, and wherein said distal end of said elongate element has a radius of curvature.

60. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 56, wherein the longitudinal axis of said proximal region of said looped element is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said second region of said first arm.

61. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 59, wherein when said looped region is in proximity to said tip region, said elongate element curves away from said tip region.

62. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said second regions of said first and second arms are each positioned at an angle of approximately 0° to 25° degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

63. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 62, wherein said second regions are each positioned at an angle of approximately 18 degrees from said first regions of said respective first and second arms.

64. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said looped region when said tip region is in proximity to said looped region.

65. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 64, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is greater than the width of the space defined by said looped region.

66. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 64, wherein the flat surface of said tip region has a width that is less than the width of the space defined by said looped region.

67. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said tip region extends the length of said second region of said second arm, and comprises:

an approximately constant cross-section.

68. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 67, wherein said tip region comprises:

a substantially rectangular cross-section.

69. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 67, wherein said tip region comprises:

a region having an approximately half-circular shaped cross-section, wherein the flat surface of said half-circular shape is proximate to said looped region when said tip region is in proximity to said looped region.

70. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said distal ends of said second regions move towards each other when said arms are compressed, and wherein said distal ends of said second regions move away from each other when the compression is released.

71. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 56, wherein one of said arms includes a post positioned on said arm, said post being proximate to the other of said arms when said tip region is in proximity to said looped region, wherein said post is configured to prevent said tip region from contacting said looped region.

72. (Withdrawn) The forceps of claim 56, wherein said electrode array comprises an electrode array selected from the group of: a cochlea stimulation electrode array, a spinal stimulation electrode array or an auditory midbrain stimulation array.

73. (Currently Amended) A manually adjustable forceps tool for controlling an implantable electrode assembly of a stimulating medical device comprising:

a first elongate arm having a longitudinal axis and proximal and distal ends and a structure proximate said distal end that forms at least a portion of a surface of a concave-shaped cross-sectional region, wherein the proximal end of said concave-shaped cross-sectional region is configured to receive the electrode assembly along a longitudinal axis through the geometric center of said concave-shaped cross-sectional region and ~~having a longitudinal axis substantially aligned with said longitudinal axis of said first elongate arm,~~ wherein said concave-shaped cross-sectional region enables said first elongate arm to receive and support the electrode assembly such that relative longitudinal movement of the electrode assembly with respect to the forceps tool is permitted while relative lateral movement of the electrode assembly with respect to the forceps tool is substantially restricted; and

a second elongate arm having proximal and distal ends and a tip region disposed proximate to said distal end of said second elongate arm,

wherein said first and second elongate arms are connected to each other such that application of a manual force to a region adjacent said proximate ends of said first and second arms causes said tip region and said concave-shaped cross-sectional region to travel toward each other to retain the electrode assembly in a space between said concave-shaped region and said tip region, thereby providing operator control of the relative longitudinal movement of the electrode assembly.

74. (Withdrawn) The forceps tool of claim 73, wherein said structure proximate said distal end of said first arm is a contiguous concave-shaped structure having a substantially half-tube-shaped cross-section.

75. (Withdrawn) The forceps tool of claim 73, wherein said structure proximate said distal end of said first arm comprises a substantially forked-shaped region having tines spaced to receive and support the electrode assembly, wherein surfaces of said tines define said concave-shaped region.

76. (Withdrawn) The forceps tool of claim 73, wherein said structure proximate said distal end of said first arm comprises a looped-shaped region configured to receive and support the electrode assembly.